

Claims

5

1. Coin dispensing apparatus comprising a coin source, a rotary member with a plurality of coin receptacles to receive coins from the coin source, a motor to rotate the rotary member so as to move coins in the receptacles along an annular coin path, a coin outlet disposed to one side of the coin path, and a movable ejector device to eject coins from the receptacles through the coin outlet, the ejector device being positioned so that it is moved to from a coin engaging position to a discharge position by a coin as it moves along the annular path to be ejected through the coin outlet, drive means operable to drive the ejector device from the discharge position to eject the coin through the outlet and thence to the coin engaging position for a next approaching coin to be ejected, and counting means responsive to movement of the ejector device to count coins ejected through the outlet.

10

2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the counting means comprises an optical emitter and detector, movement of the ejector device controlling passage of the radiation from the emitter to the detector in response to each coin ejected through the coin outlet whereby the detector provides a count signal corresponding to the ejected coins.

15

3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the drive means comprises a spring urging the ejector device from the discharge position towards the coin engaging position.

20

4. Apparatus according to any preceding claim including a body in which the motor and the ejector device are mounted, a flat surface on the body that receives coins from the source, the surface having an opening therein through which the ejector device protrudes to eject coins.

5. Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the flat surface has an annular periphery bounded by a peripheral wall having the coin outlet therein.

5 6. Apparatus according to claim 4 or 5 wherein the coin source comprises a hopper mounted on the body.

7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the ejector device comprises first and second coin engaging members movable between said coin 10 engaging position and said discharge position.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the coin engaging members are mounted for movement in unison.

15 9. Apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the coin engaging members are mounted for movement independently.

10. Apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the ejector device comprises at least one arm configured to turn between said coin 20 engaging position and said discharge position, and the counting means is operable to detect the turning of the arm in response to each coin ejected through the coin outlet.

25 11. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the ejector device comprises at least one slider member movable between the coin engaging position and the discharge position.

12. Coin dispensing apparatus comprising a coin source, a rotary member with a plurality of coin receptacles to receive coins from the coin source, a motor 30 to rotate the rotary member so as to move coins in the receptacles along an annular coin path, a coin outlet disposed to one side of the coin path, and a movable ejector device to eject coins from the receptacles through the coin

outlet, the ejector device being positioned so that it is moved to from a coin engaging position to a discharge position by a coin as it moves along the annular path to be ejected through the coin outlet, drive means operable to drive the ejector device from the discharge position to eject the coin through the outlet and thence to the coin engaging position for a next approaching coin to be ejected, the ejector device comprising first and second coin engaging members movable independently between said coin engaging position and said discharge position.

10 13. Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the first and second coin engaging members each comprise an arm configured to turn between said coin engaging position and said discharge position.

15 14. Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the first and second coin engaging members each comprise a slider configured to slide between said coin engaging position and said discharge position.

15. Coin dispensing apparatus comprising a coin source, a rotary member with a plurality of coin receptacles to receive coins from the coin source, a motor 20 to rotate the rotary member so as to move coins in the receptacles along an annular coin path, a coin outlet disposed to one side of the coin path, and a movable ejector device to eject coins from the receptacles through the coin outlet, the ejector device being positioned so that it is moved to from a coin engaging position to a discharge position by a coin as it moves along the annular path to be ejected through the coin outlet, drive means operable to drive the ejector device from the discharge position to eject the coin through the outlet and thence to the coin engaging position for a next approaching coin to be ejected, the ejector device comprising at least one slider member movable between the coin engaging position and the discharge position.